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LETTER DATED 12 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 9 February 1995, the Voice of America, which reflects the views of the United States Government, broadcast a commentary containing false allegations concerning unlawful violations of human rights in Libya.

The Great Jamahiriya refutes the sophistries and fabrications contained in the commentary, which have the purpose, precisely at this time, of misrepresenting the human rights record in Libya. At the same time, they are to be seen in the framework of the vicious campaign being waged by the United States of America against Libya in order to obstruct its endeavours to achieve economic and social development and ensure the welfare of its people.

As we have declared on many occasions in the past, we are prepared for an impartial inquiry into human rights violations, in any form whatever, and into the grounds for these false allegations. At the same time, we insist on an inquiry in the very country that accuses other countries of violating human rights, namely the United States of America.

In light of the foregoing, we call upon the General Assembly, the Security Council and other relevant organs to make appropriate arrangements for the conduct of the necessary inquiries in order to bring to light and publicize to the world the true situation with respect to the falsity of these allegations. In this connection, we must affirm our national sovereignty over our country and our total rejection of interference in our internal affairs, a principle that must be respected in the framework of relations between States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and all international laws and customs.

The United States of America, which claims to be the world's greatest defender of human rights, must look to itself and must examine its own record of numerous human rights violations, of oppression and of racial discrimination, particularly against Blacks and American Indians. The events that took place in Los Angeles provide the best indication of that.

The United States has been alarmed and disconcerted by the political stability enjoyed by the Libyan people, by the fact that it rallies to its leadership and by its steadfast character despite the iniquitous economic embargo imposed as a result of the hegemony of certain major Powers in the Security Council, chiefly the United States of America itself. Its only expedient has been to disseminate mendacious rumours aimed at undermining stability and injuring the reputation of the Great Jamahiriya and at casting doubt on its political system, which is based on respect for human rights under the direct power of the people and which gives all citizens the freedom to express their views and to make their own decisions.

The Jamahiriya, which made an active contribution to promoting respect for human rights when it adopted the Great Green Document on Human Rights in Libya, cannot allow such false allegations to gain acceptance. It calls upon the international community to strive to put an end to this encroachment on the rights of others.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed A. AZWAI
Permanent Representative